



# Conservation Compass

Joplin Area Outreach & Education



October  
November  
December  
2009



## On The Move

Fall weather makes me itchy to migrate. For about 3 years, my husband and I migrated every fall and spring to a new national park for seasonal ranger jobs. Summers up north and winters in the south, we followed the tourists. Many Missouri animals are preparing for their own fall journey.

Check out these amazing migrations!



### Monarch Butterfly

By instinct alone, these insects migrate to 12 mountaintops in central Mexico, flying 2,500 miles in 6 weeks!



### Snow Goose

Breeding and raising young in the arctic tundra, this large waterfowl may be found overwintering throughout most of Missouri, a few other southern states, and Mexico.



### Short-eared Owl

This prairie lover spends summers in Canada and parts of the northern United States. Winters are spent in Missouri and many other southern states.

### Silver-haired Bat

This tree-inhabiting mammal migrates south to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and northern Louisiana. A few stay in Missouri, hanging in tree cavities and hunting on warm winter nights.



Not all Missouri animals migrate. Some hibernate or go into a state of torpor, such as the copperhead, groundhog, and box turtle. Others will adapt to the cold weather by growing a thick coat or storing away food. I suppose I will be adapting to a Joplin winter instead of migrating this year. For all you fellow adapters: enjoy watching the changing season and look for our migrating critters return next spring!

Amy Juhala, Naturalist, [Amy.Juhala@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Amy.Juhala@mdc.mo.gov)



Kevin Badgley  
Community Outreach Specialist  
Kevin.Badgley@mdc.mo.gov

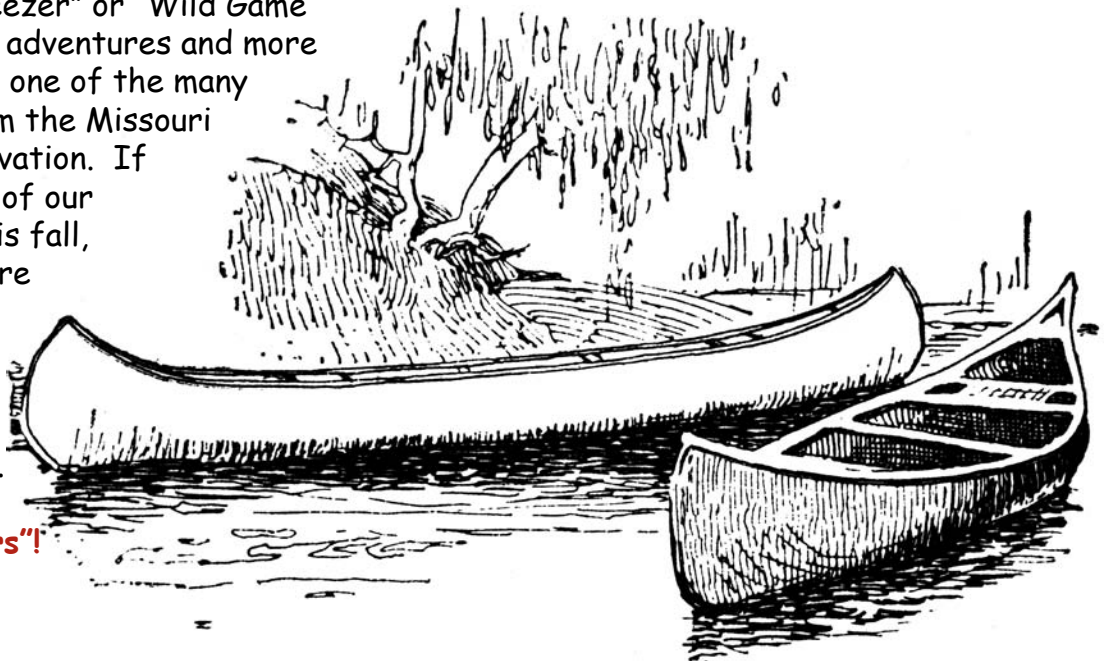
# Autumn Adventures!

Both hunters and nonhunters share a passion for the outdoors and highly anticipate the splendors of a Missouri autumn. Spending time outdoors allows us the opportunity to experience the sudden rush of wing beats overhead from waterfowl on a crisp morning, the discovery of glistening spider webs as the land beacons the light of a new day, the taste of freshly cracked pecans gathered from a recent outing through the woods, and the distinctive grunt of the whitetail that tickles your ear as the hazy fog has yet to reveal the beauty before your eyes. Our Missouri outdoors are full of wonderful experiences for those who seek solitude or wish to share memories with families and friends.



Local MDC staff offer a wide variety of programs, workshops and adventures throughout the year, and this autumn is no exception. The focus of our programs is to help educate the participants and provide a quality experience in nature. Beyond providing these experiences, is our desire to empower individuals to explore more on their own, to feel comfortable introducing family, neighbors and friends to nature, and to help conserve and protect the resources so many of us enjoy. Rekindle the days of childhood when you remember

turning those sticks and string into a bow and arrow by rediscovering archery, share the excitement of exploring a creek in a canoe, learn to provide more food for your table by attending "Feed to freezer" or "Wild Game Cooking", all these adventures and more await you by attending one of the many offerings this fall from the Missouri Department of Conservation. If you cannot attend one of our programs or events this fall, take the time to explore a trail, the woods, or seek out a conservation area and enjoy an autumn adventure of your own.



See you "out-of-doors"!



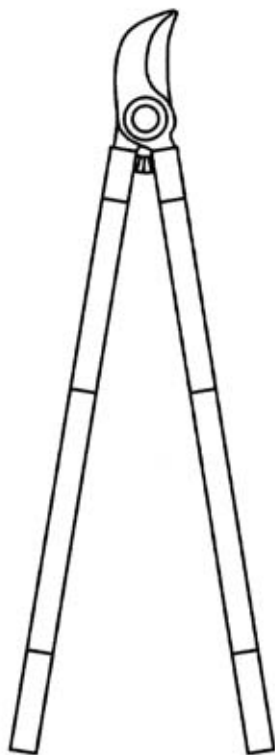




# Forestry Focus

Jon Skinner, Urban Forester

Jon. Skinner@mdc.mo.gov



## Tree Pruning Workshops

All workshops are free to the public and start at 6:30 pm

November 17, 2009  
Cedar County Health Department / Clinic Meeting Room,  
801 Owen Mill Rd., Stockton

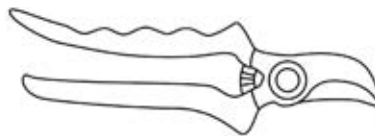
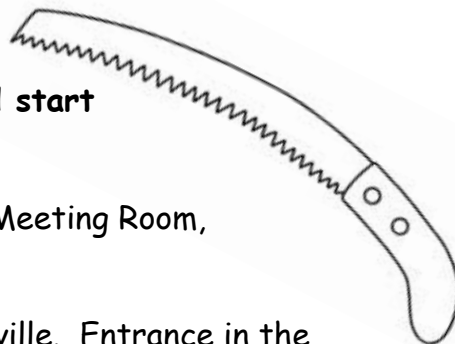
November 19, 2009  
City Council Chambers, 300 Main St., Cassville. Entrance in the  
back of building.

November 23, 2009  
Fire Department Meeting Room, 106 S. Elliott Ave., Aurora

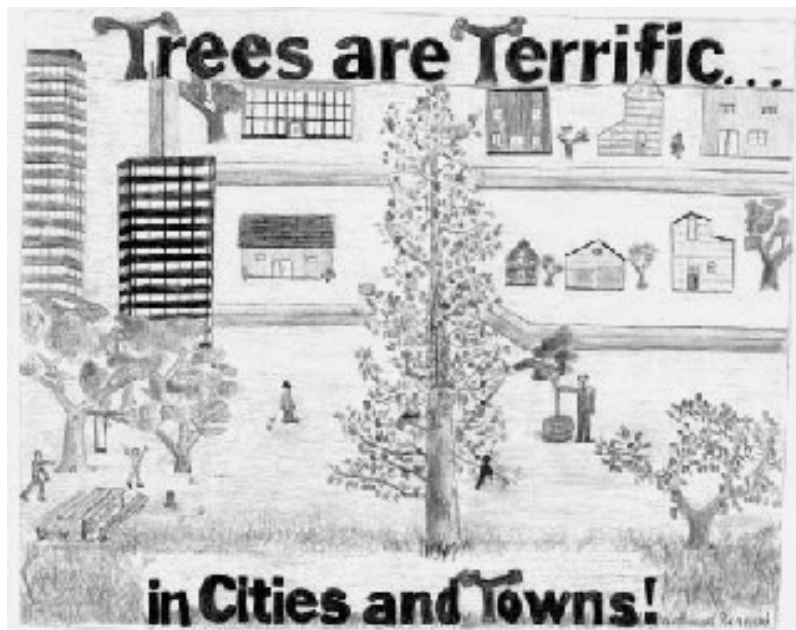
November 30, 2009  
Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, Joplin

December 1, 2009  
Thiebaud Aud., 105 E. 11th St., Lamar

December 8, 2009  
Lampo Bldg., 500 E. Spring St., Neosho



## Sign Up Fifth Graders for National Arbor Day Poster Contest



The National Arbor Day Poster contest is open to all fifth grade students. The contest provides students education about trees and then they prepare a poster on the topic covered. The theme for the 2010 contest is "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" Contestants participate through the state contest with school winners due by February 11, 2010. To sign up a fifth grade class including home schools contact Donna Baldwin [Donna.Baldwin@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Donna.Baldwin@mdc.mo.gov) or call 573-751-4115 extn 3111 to be placed on the e-mail list.





# The **WILD SIDE** to Private Lands

*Randy Haas, Private Lands Conservationist*

*Randy.Haas@mdc.mo.gov*



## BURNING THE GLADE-UPDATE

On April 15th, we were able to accomplish a prescribed burn on all of the acreage on the south side of the pond on Silver Creek, and a big portion of the north side of it. Maybe some of you who frequent the glades noticed the blackened area! The vegetative response has been great, as we knew it would be! The coreopsis was brilliant this spring, along with some other not so obvious plants, like widows cross and Nuttall's sedum. We tried to get some areas where there was a heavy infestation of Japanese honeysuckle to burn, in order to set it back, but conditions weren't quite dry enough to get this accomplished. Melic grass was tremendously invigorated by the prescribed burn as well, growing profusely in the area that was burned. Some Solomon's seal was also observed in the burned area, along the north side of the pond. But, as with most things, there were also some plants invigorated that we would like to see disappear from the glade. These would include sericea lespedeza, Bermuda

grass, and johnsongrass, to name a few. We will continue to try and control these unwanted species as best we can, but it will be a long and difficult battle! If any of you are interested in assisting us with trying to keep the "unwanted" at bay, please don't be afraid to volunteer!!

Photos by Chris Pistole





## Field Guide to Your Backyard



### Question Those Crazy Statements

It's the most dangerous spider in the world, but its mouthparts are too small to bite!

Usually these bizarre, strong statements can be tested by one or two very simple questions. While working outside this fall you will probably run across this dainty fellow with a reputation of THE MOST DANGEROUS/POISONOUS spider on earth.

Simple question, how many body parts does a spider have? Two! That daddy longlegs has ... One! And from there the statement falls apart, but with more questions or observation the creature becomes very interesting.

The daddy longlegs or harvestman is an arachnid but differs from spiders in many ways. The harvestman has an oval shaped body called the cephalothorax, eight legs, and two eyes. While spiders have two body segments, eight legs, and eight eyes, Harvestmen are great predators of tiny insects and arachnids without the

advantage of spinnerets or silk glands. Their obvious long limbs give them a good advantage of stalking and traveling fast over uneven ground. The loss of these limbs is a death sentence and while many arachnids can regrow legs, the short-lived harvestman simply does not have the time.

A common myth is they congregate in the fall before they migrate. Harvestmen are full-grown around harvest time (thus the name) and may be easily found together hunting and mating in shady spots. Eggs are laid on the soil in protected areas just before the adults pass on. They too, just like Missouri's deer, monarchs, and quail are part of the wide diversity of wildlife our state has to offer. Many are surrounded by untruths, folktales, and internet talk. So next time you are told a cottonmouth snake can't bite underwater. Ask the story teller if they bite fish underwater. Simple questions test those crazy statements.



Jeff Cantrell

## Ask the Naturalist



**Q:** Should we worry about red foxes in our neighborhood?

**A:** Forest borders and open park-like settings make beautiful home sites not only for people, but for all kinds of animals from birds, insects, turtles, and snakes to red foxes. Reddish fur, large pointed ears, long muzzle, fairly long legs, and a large bushy tail identify the red fox. This relatively small predator only weighs seven to 15 pounds, the average weight of a house cat. Mice and rabbits make up the bulk of their food, but red foxes also eat birds, insects, and wild fruits. Foxes are opportunists, though. If you leave food outside - any kind of scraps, cat or dog chow - you may invite a fox to your neighborhood. In general, red foxes should not cause you to worry, but foxes, just like domestic cats and dogs, may carry rabies or distemper. To avoid problems, remember foxes are wild animals: leave them alone, do not feed them, and help us insure that they still have enough of the proper habitat remaining.





# Fall Events

## Missouri Department of Conservation Joplin Office Program Registration

All programs are FREE and **require registration**; please contact the Joplin Conservation Office at **(417) 629-3423** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so someone on the waiting list may attend.



## October

### 2 Friday, 3 – 7 pm, Autumn Adventures, All Ages, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

See back page of the Conservation Compass for details!

### 13 Tuesday, 6 – 8 pm, Got Flint?, Adults and children 10 and up, Walter Woods Conservation Area

We will investigate “Man lives with Wild” instead of “Man vs. Wild!” Pick up some survival skills, emergency preparedness, and fun outdoor trivia.

### 14 Wednesday, 6 – 7:30 pm, Archery Basics, All Ages, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Take a shot at some fun! We will provide the equipment while you learn some basic archery skills.

### 16 Friday, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Field to Freezer, Adults and children 8 and up, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

Don Scott, taxidermist and meat processor, will give advice and demonstrate techniques on how to care for your deer from the time it's harvested until it is placed in the freezer. This will be a live presentation with a real deer.

### 31 Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm, Discover Nature Women: Introduction to Rifle Shooting, Women and girls 14 and up, Fort Crowder Shooting Range

Please register by October 26th.



### 17 Saturday, 5 – 7 pm, Saturday Night Family Fishing, Families, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Gather your family and come to Walter Woods for some catch and release fishing! We will provide the poles and bait. Participants 16 and older must have a valid fishing license.



#### Discover Nature

**Families** are programs that help families discover and explore nature together. Parents, kids, grandparents, aunts, uncles..



All forms of families are welcome!

## November

### 7 Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm, Nature Journaling: Drawn to the Outdoors, school teachers, youth leaders, and homeschool parents, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Everyone can draw! This fun, hands-on course is guaranteed to give teachers ideas for improving the observation skills of their students. Class is free to all educators, but pre-registration is required.

### 10 Tuesday, 6 – 8 pm, Got Flint? – The Sequel, Adults and children ages 10 and up, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Missed our October program or want to learn even more? Gain some new survival techniques and nature know-how.



### 11 Wednesday, 9:30 am – 3 pm, Fall Float on the Elk River, Adults and children ages 10 and up

Hop in a canoe on a naturalist-led float down Elk River and help us investigate vegetation, bird life, mammal signs, and the health of the river. Canoes, paddles, and life vests will be provided. Register early as there is a limited number of canoes.

### 14 Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm, Discover Nature Schools: Project Learning Tree: Bugs, Slugs, and Downy Woodpeckers, school teachers, youth leaders, and homeschool parents, Walter Woods Conservation Area

This is an engaging class investigating wildlife habitats and needs using the Project Learning Tree curriculum. Student activities will be cross curricular and encompassing all grade and skill levels. Course is \$20 for the six-hour teacher workshop.

### 21 Saturday, 3 – 6 pm, Discover Nature Women: Holiday Cooking in a Dutch Oven, Adult and Teen Women, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Put an “old” spin on your holiday cooking! Learn basic dutch oven cooking techniques and taste our creations.



### 6 Friday, 6 – 7 pm, Black Bears in Missouri!, Families, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

Did you know bears live in Missouri?



Wildlife Damage Biologist James Dixon will teach us about these large mammals.



Hang this page on your refrigerator!

Don't forget to register for programs!

## December

### 5 Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm, Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Workshop, Adults and supervised children ages 11 and up, Walter Woods Conservation Area



### 12 Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm, Discover Nature Schools: Water Education for Teachers, youth leaders, homeschool parents, and school teachers, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Project WET targets the study of water and water issues in an easy to use, active, and fun way. Course is \$20 for the Project WET workshop.

### 19 Saturday, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Kid's Craft Day: Holiday Edition, All Ages, Walter Woods Conservation Area

Drop by anytime and make some “natural” gifts for friends and family. Stop by the free gift wrapping station on your way out.

### 12 Saturday, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Wild Game Feed, Families, Wildcat Glade Conservation & Audubon Center

Bring your appetite as we learn how to cook up dishes from nature's grocery store.





# Teachers, Tracks, Treks and Trails

Jeff Cantrell, Conservation Education and Outreach  
Jeff.Cantrell@mdc.mo.gov

## Every Child Learns Outside

Time, teacher peer, and student tested Project Learning Tree (PLT) has been around for over 30 years, providing an excellent curriculum resource for conservation education. PLT is provided to homeschool parents, youth leaders, naturalists, and teachers at six-hour educator workshops held across the country. Why is a workshop necessary? Why can't the educator just purchase the curriculum guide off the shelf or on the Internet? The reason is simple. Educators and naturalists are bombarded with activity guides and classroom activities repeatedly and in their busy routines they have little time to review them. Hands-on workshops allow participants to go through the activities and after participating they are more likely to use them.

Fun learning is the underlining theme, and while all activities contain conservation concepts they are infused with subjects like math, language arts, social studies etc. PLT takes advantage of indoor and outdoor settings and city, suburbs, or rural. Perhaps the most important feature of the PLT kindergarten - 12 curriculum is it teaches the students "how to think" not "what to think". Educators and students alike are given the opportunity to come to their own conclusions.

The constructivist theory of learning is where students develop new understandings by putting together previous understandings with new discoveries. Which is even how we adults learn about the detailed cycles of nature and all the components of the outdoor world that is related to our daily lives.

Educators and youth leaders wanting to learn more or take advantage of project opportunities this fall please contact me by e-mail or phone. Remember, the outdoors is the ultimate classroom!



# Project Learning Tree®







**Will Carr**  
**Jasper County**  
**Conservation Agent**

# Trespassing Into Fall

Anybody that can breathe air can tell you that there is a change taking place outside. The trees have all changed colors putting on their annual light show, and the days are getting shorter. There is a chill in the air that strikes every hunter deep in their soul, making them recall days past, and hunts of years before. If you are quiet, you can even catch the faint calls of geese on the horizon, headed for different lands.

Anyone who loves being outdoors whether it is hunting, fishing, hiking, or just enjoying nature's splendor, can relate to the feeling of a cold fall day. These months will be filled with people gathering together to go hunting and make memories that will be past on for generations. Most anyone can relate to a great day in the field when everything went right and it seemed nothing could go wrong. The image of that big buck slipping through the early morning mist in front of your stand will be forever ingrained

in your mind. The same image of that orange clad hunter stomping through the woods and sitting down fifty feet in front of you, ruining any chance of an enjoyable morning will also be ingrained in your memory.

Unfortunately every fall hundreds of people trespass onto other people's land. It is not only inconvenient to the landowner who has worked hard to buy their land, but it is also illegal. Each year people are thrown into dangerous situations by confronting people who are on their property without permission. Sometimes the trespasser really had no idea they were on someone else's land, but most of the time it is intentional.

Finding a quality spot to hunt should not include trespassing, there are plenty of spots to hunt, you just have to work to find them. Many times if you ask permission a landowner will allow you to hunt, if not, there are many different choices of public lands that you can hunt.

In the surrounding counties there are numerous Missouri Department of Conservation areas and other public hunting areas that allow some form of hunting. There are special regulations at some of these areas, which you can find posted on signs at each area or in an area brochure. For more information on these areas contact your local Missouri Department of Conservation office or your local Conservation Agent.

For area landowners it is recommended that you post your land with no-trespassing signs or purple paint. With having your land well posted this allows easier prosecution and stiffer penalties because anybody that enters upon that land without permission is guilty of Trespass in the first degree, a class B misdemeanor.

With this in mind I hope everyone has a happy and successful hunting season without the hassle of trespassing. If you do have a problem with trespassing you can report it and any other wildlife violations to Operation Game Thief at 1-800-392-1111. Operation Game Thief allows violations to be reported anonymously and you may be eligible for a reward.





# Challenge Cards

You were migrating at night and had a close encounter with a telephone guide wire. But with some skillful flying, you avoided a collision. Move ahead 1 space.	You didn't notice the big picture window. SMACK! Go back 3 spaces.	You stopped by a house to eat at their bird feeder. They had an outdoor cat who caught you by surprise. Move back 5 spaces.	It's cloudy for three nights in a row and you can't see the stars. The city light pollution bouncing off the clouds confuses your flock. Move back 3 spaces.
After arriving in Missouri to winter, you've discovered that your habitat has been replaced with a new subdivision. Where will you stay? What will you eat? Return to start.	You flew right over a field that had just been treated with pesticides, but you didn't stop to eat. Move ahead 2 spaces.	While you were flying over the local marsh, a poacher shot you, even though it's not hunting season. Return to start.	You are migrating south and don't want to waste much time stopping to find food. You spot a well-maintained bird feeder full of fresh sunflower seeds. It give you the energy to keep going. Move ahead 2 spaces.
Starlings (an exotic bird species) have invaded your habitat. Now you must compete with them for food, water, shelter, and space. Move back 4 spaces.	You were migrating at night and the bright lights of a cell phone tower confused you. You ran into the tower, move back 2 spaces.	A wind turbine farm has been erected in your migration flyway. Many of your flock flies into the turbines. Move back 6 spaces.	You had a close encounter with a car speeding by on the highway, but with some skillful flying, you avoided a collision. Move ahead 3 spaces.



## The WILD Side of Cooking

### Wild Turkey Leftover Casserole

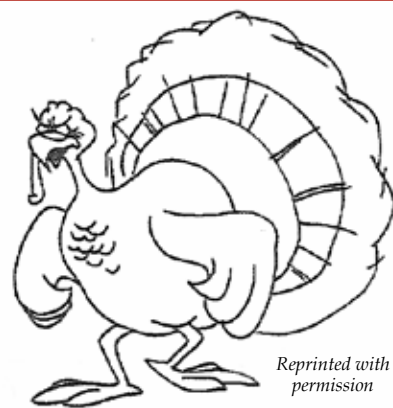
- from Cy Littlebee's Guide to Cooking Fish & Game

Use this recipe for leftover wild turkey or other game birds, either fried or baked:

#### Ingredients:

2 large pieces of meat  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup green peppers, chopped  
 2 tablespoons of butter  
 1 can mushroom soup, undiluted

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk  
 Dash of chopped red peppers or hot sauce

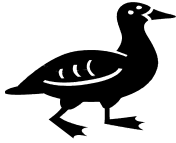


Reprinted with permission

Remove skin from pieces of meat, strip meat from bones, and chop into small pieces. Place in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  quart or 2 quart baking dish. In skillet, brown the chopped green peppers in butter, then add all ingredients except the meat. Blend and bring to near-boil. Pour over meat in baking dish and bake 25 to 30 minutes at 350°F.



# Conservation Kids



## Migration Challenge Game!

**Instructions:** Cut challenge cards on page 10 and place in stack upside down. Use a penny to mark your spot. Roll one dice to determine number of squares moved. First bird to migrate wins!

- Amy Juhala, Naturalist

Start flapping!



	Challenge Card			
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Challenge Card

			Challenge Card		Challenge Card
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Challenge Card

*A migration trip is full of challenges!*

	Challenge Card			Challenge Card	
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Challenge Card

You made it!



Challenge Card	Challenge Card			
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## *Autumn Adventures*

Friday, October 2nd  
3 - 7 pm

Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

**Come join the fun!**

- Shooting Trailer
- Tree ID Hunt
- Operation Game Thief Trailer
- Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstrations
- Backpacking Demonstrations

**And Much  
More!!**